

1962 Library 4419
Dr. M. H. A. 4419
BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
of HEALTH

and

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1962

H. S. BURY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

H. W. PRIDMORE, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Biggleswade Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances for the Biggleswade Rural District for 1962.

The vital statistics in the first part of the report indicate a generally satisfactory state of affairs; the birth rate being above and the death rate substantially below the National average. The infant mortality and peri-natal rates were low and the maternal mortality rate again nil.

The only infectious disease that was at all prevalent during the year was Measles.

Although there was a continued reduction in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, the deaths from this disease registered, have not shown any diminution recently. This is accounted for by the presence of long stay hospitals in the area and does not reflect the state of health of the local population.

In addition to maintaining the immunity of the population against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, the County Council under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, is now also giving protection against Tetanus and Poliomyelitis. No cases of the latter disease has occurred in this district since 1957.

Water supplies in the district continue to be satisfactory. The eight largest villages are now on main drainage and schemes are in hand for connection of another seven parishes. 72% of the population are now resident in areas with main drainage.

The amount of meat slaughtered at the slaughterhouse at Arlesey continues to occupy a great deal of the time of our meat inspectors. Nevertheless, it has been possible to achieve 100% inspections. The amount of meat condemned as a result of these inspections shows how necessary this service still is.

The standard of Food Hygiene practised by food handlers in the district generally, is fairly satisfactory, but there are exceptions and these receive frequent visits to improve their methods.

In the table of principal causes of death on page six of this report it will be seen that the commonest causes of death in persons under sixty-five are now cancer of the lungs and coronary heart disease. We now know the cause of the former—cigarette smoking; the cause of the latter has still to be defined but we do know that it is related to our present way of life. A lack of balance in our mental and physical activities and our dietary habits appear to be likely factors. Now that so many of the external causes of ill-health have been removed by sanitary reform and higher standards of living,

progress in the standard of health of the community is much more a matter for effort by the individual than for the community services.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members of the Council for their indulgence and the Council staff for their help and co-operation during the year, and particularly Mr. Pridmore who has been responsible for the major part of the year's work recorded in this Report.

I am,
Your obedient servant,

H. S. BURY,
Medical Officer of Health.

BIGGLESWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1962

1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----------|
| Area in acres | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 49,153 |
| Registrar General's estimate of home population mid-year 1962 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 29,390 |
| Number of inhabited houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,123 |
| Rateable value | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £258,298 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £2,800 |

2. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The district is mainly agricultural and is famous for its market gardening industry.

Small industry includes light engineering, brick making, milling and the manufacture of fertilizers over twenty-five scattered parishes.

Several villages such as Potton, Shefford and Arlesey and Stotfold are quite large; others like Astwick and Eyeworth are only very small hamlets.

Housing generally is poor by modern standards; much of it is early Victorian terraced type and old rural cottage property.

The area is very prosperous and employment is plentiful.

3. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

| | | | | | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | 279 | 252 | 531 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 14 | 24 |
| Total | | | | | 289 | 266 | 555 |

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| Crude birth rate per 1,000 Home population | .. | 18.9 |
| Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 Home population | .. | 19.8 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales | .. | 18.0 |

Still Births

| | | | | | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | .. | .. | .. | .. | — | 1 | 1 |
| Total | | | | | 3 | 5 | 8 |

| | | | |
|---|----|----|------|
| Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births | .. | .. | 14.2 |
| Still Birth Rate for England and Wales | .. | .. | 18.1 |

Deaths

| | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| All causes | 151 | 155 | 306 |
| Crude death rate per 1,000 Home Population | .. | .. | 10.4 |
| Area comparability Factor | .. | .. | 0.91 |
| Adjusted death rate per 1,000 Home population | .. | .. | 9.5 |
| Death rate for England and Wales | .. | .. | 11.9 |

Deaths Connected with Childbirth

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Maternal Mortality .. | Nil per 1,000 total live and still births |
|-----------------------|---|

Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age

| | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Total | 2 | 5 | 7 |

| | | | |
|--|----|----|------|
| Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births | .. | .. | 12.6 |
| Rate for England and Wales | .. | .. | 21.4 |
| Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | .. | .. | 9.0 |
| Early Neo-natal Mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | .. | .. | 9.0 |
| Peri-natal Mortality rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | .. | .. | 23.0 |

STATISTICAL TABLE, 1952-1962

| Year | Death Rate | | Birth Rate | | Infant Mortality Rate | |
|------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| | Biggleswade Rural | England & Wales | Biggleswade Rural | England & Wales | Biggleswade Rural | England & Wales |
| 1952 | 9.1 | 11.3 | 13.4 | 15.3 | 25.0 | 27.6 |
| 1953 | 10.6 | 11.4 | 14.4 | 15.5 | 15.9 | 26.8 |
| 1954 | 12.2 | 11.3 | 15.9 | 15.2 | 25.5 | 25.5 |
| 1955 | 13.2 | 11.7 | 14.2 | 15.0 | 8.0 | 24.9 |
| 1956 | 11.4 | 11.7 | 16.2 | 15.7 | 17.2 | 23.8 |
| 1957 | 9.4 | 11.5 | 16.7 | 16.1 | 22.2 | 23.0 |
| 1958 | 9.7 | 11.7 | 16.7 | 16.9 | 23.8 | 22.5 |
| 1959 | 9.6 | 11.6 | 15.5 | 16.5 | 9.4 | 22.0 |
| 1960 | 10.7 | 11.5 | 17.1 | 17.1 | 13.8 | 21.7 |
| 1961 | 10.2 | 12.0 | 19.4 | 17.4 | 6.0 | 21.4 |
| 1962 | 9.5 | 11.9 | 19.8 | 18.0 | 12.6 | 21.4 |

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH—1962

| Causes | Under 16 years | | 16-65 | | Over 65 | | Total | |
|---|-------------------|----|-------|----|------------|-----|-------|-----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| 2. Tuberculosis, other | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 3. Syphilitic disease | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 4. Diphtheria | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5. Whooping Cough | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 6. Meningococcal infections .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 8. Measles | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9. Other infective and parasitic disease | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. | — | — | 5 | — | 6 | — | 11 | — |
| 11. Malignant neoplasm, lungs Bronchus | — | — | 14 | 1 | 2 | — | 16 | 1 |
| 12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .. | — | — | — | 4 | — | 3 | — | 7 |
| 13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| 14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm | — | — | 6 | 2 | 7 | 10 | 13 | 12 |
| 15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| 16. Diabetes | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 17. Vascular lesions of nervous system | — | — | 5 | 1 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 18 |
| 18. Coronary disease, angina .. | — | — | 10 | 7 | 18 | 12 | 28 | 19 |
| 19. Hypertension with heart disease .. | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 20. Other heart disease | — | — | 3 | 5 | 7 | 29 | 10 | 34 |
| 21. Other circulatory disease .. | — | 1 | — | — | 4 | 11 | 4 | 12 |
| 22. Influenza | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| 23. Pneumonia | — | — | — | — | 13 | 16 | 13 | 16 |
| 24. Bronchitis | — | — | 5 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 7 |
| 25. Other diseases of respiratory system | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 28. Nephritis and nephrosis | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 31. Congenital malformations | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 6 | 13 |
| 33. Motor vehicle accidents | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 34. All other accidents | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 35. Suicide | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Totals | 4 | 6 | 63 | 28 | 84 | 121 | 151 | 155 |

Causes of death in infancy

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Prematurity | 4 |
| Congenital abnormality | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 1 |

4. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA PROVIDED BY THE NORTH WEST METROPOLITAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

General Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
North Herts & South Beds. Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Geriatric Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Clapham Hospital, near Bedford.
Biggleswade Hospital, Pottton Road, Biggleswade.

Maternity Hospitals

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Lister Hospital, Hitchin, Herts.

Infectious Disease Hospital

Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Luton.

Psychiatric Hospital

Three Counties Hospital, Arlesey.

Mentally Sub-normal

Bromham Hospital, near Bedford.

Chest Clinic (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Venereal Disease Clinic

Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.

Miniature Radiography

Biggleswade (The Lawns). Tuesdays, 11.15 a.m. to 11.45 a.m.

Physiotherapy Clinic

Biggleswade (The Lawns). Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons.

Bacteriological Laboratory

Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council Ambulance Service

The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the needs of the area. It covers the full twenty-four hours.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance or sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel

by other means to and from Hospitals and clinics when attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot.

The service now also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

The following depots are situated in the eastern and northern districts of the County:

Biggleswade (Chestnut Avenue). Tel.: Biggleswade 2295.

Bedford (Bedford Road, Kempston). Tel.: Kempston 5335/5336.

Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service

This Service is administered by the North Eastern Divisional Health Committee. The nurses employed are:

| <i>Name and Address of Nurse</i> | <i>District</i> |
|---|--|
| Mrs. M. Lovatt, 57 All Saints Way, Sandy. Telephone: 105. | Blunham, Mogerhanger, Sandy, Tempsford. |
| Miss M. P. Stafford, 38 Mead End, Biggleswade. Telephone: 3266 | Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth, Eweworth. |
| Miss P. Briggs, 41 Oak Crescent, Biggleswade. Telephone: 2332 | Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth, Eweworth. |
| Miss F. Bishop, 11 Festival Road, Potton. Telephone: 234 | Cockayne Hatley, Everton, Potton, Sutton, Wrestlingworth. |
| Mrs. P. R. Corns, 143 Vaughan Road, Stotfold. Telephone 372. | Astwick, Stotfold. |
| Mrs. B. Blamire, 15 Groveside, Henlow. Telephone: Clifton 298. | Clifton, Henlow. |
| Miss D. M. Collie, 47 Southfields, Shefford. Telephone: 356. | Meppershall, Shefford, Campton, Chicksands. |
| Mrs. E. M. Wyer, 62 Stratton Way, Biggleswade. Telephone: 2028. | Langford, Old Warden, Northill, Southill. |
| Mrs. E. M. Woodford, Chase Farm Road, Arlesey. Telephone: 362. | Arlesey. |

Health Visiting Service

| <i>Name and Address of Health Visitor</i> | <i>District</i> |
|--|--|
| Miss D. O. Cannon, The Green, Preston, Nr. Hitchin, Herts. | Astwick, Arlesey, Langford, Stotfold. |

Miss D. M. Towers,
36a Radcliffe Road, Hitchin,
Herts.

Miss D. A. Hipkiss,
"Clovelly," Cottage Road,
Sandy.

Miss M. C. Ramsay,
30 Bedford Road, Sandy.

Miss G. E. Farmer,
120 Norton Road, Stotfold.
(part time)

Broom, Caldecote, Campton,
Clifton, Henlow R.A.F.,
Meppershall, Old Warden,
Shefford, Southill.

Biggleswade, Dunton, Edworth,
Eyeworth.

Blunham, Caldecote, Cockayne
Hatley, Everton, Mogerhanger,
Northill, Ickwell, Potton, Sandy,
Sutton, Tempsford,
Wrestlingworth.

Henlow village.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council Child Welfare Clinics

Arlesey: Methodist Schoolroom. Monday afternoons fortnightly.

Biggleswade: "The Lawns Health Centre." Tuesday afternoons weekly.

Blunham: Village Hall. Thursday afternoons monthly.

Henlow Camp: Henlow R.A.F. Station. Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

Henlow Village: Parish Hall. Thursday mornings fortnightly.

Langford: Ivy Leaf Club Room. Thursday mornings, fortnightly.

Potton: Church Hall. Wednesday afternoons fortnightly.

Sandy: Church Room. Thursday afternoons fortnightly.

Shefford: Digswell House. Wednesday afternoons weekly.

Stotfold: Unionist Club. Monday afternoons fortnightly.

Tempsford: Stuart Memorial Hall. Thursday afternoons weekly.

Northill-Caldecote: Ickwell Club Room. Tuesday afternoons fortnightly.

Home Help Service

Organizer: Mrs. V. Van Berckaler, 3 St. Peter's Street, Bedford.
Telephone: Bedford 2207.

Dental Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Four mornings per week.

Speech Therapy Clinic

Biggleswade: The Lawns Health Centre. Thursday afternoons weekly.

5. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

It is now possible to protect persons against an increasing number of infections by the use of vaccines and toxoids. The Bedfordshire County Council is responsible for the provision of this service which is given direct at clinics and schools or through the General Medical Practitioners. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, Smallpox and Tuberculosis are the diseases dealt with.

Doses given:

Diphtheria only

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Primary doses | 57 |
| Reinforcing doses | 260 |

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Primary doses | 272 |
|-----------------------|-----|

Smallpox

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Primary vaccination | 2,430 |
| Re-vaccination | 1,533 |

(These figures are abnormally high—this being due entirely to the introduction of Smallpox in parts of the country which caused alarm. This reminds us very forcibly of the continuing need for protection against this disease).

Poliomyelitis

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Primary doses given in the North | |
| Eastern part of the County | 4,122 |

Tuberculosis

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Vaccination done in the North | |
| Eastern part of the County | 1,768 |

6. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| | Notification by Age Groups | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| | Under 1 | 1-4 | 5-9 | 10-15 | Over 15 | Total |
| Measles | 11 | 186 | 186 | 14 | 4 | 401 |
| Pneumonia | — | 1 | 3 | — | 2 | 6 |
| Scarlet Fever | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Tuberculosis—Respiratory .. | — | 1 | — | — | 17 | 18 |
| „ Non-Respiratory | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| TB Meningitis | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 2 |

NOTIFICATIONS BY PARISHES

| | Measles | Pneumonia | Scarlet Fever | Tuberculosis respiratory | Non-respiratory | T.B. Meningitis | Totals |
|----------------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------|
| Arlesey .. | 24 | — | — | 3 | — | — | 27 |
| Blunham .. | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Clifton .. | 8 | 1 | — | — | — | — | 9 |
| Caldecote .. | 23 | — | — | — | — | — | 23 |
| Dunton .. | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Eyeworth .. | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 |
| Henlow .. | 48 | — | — | 2 | — | — | 50 |
| Ickwell .. | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Langford .. | 4 | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | 8 |
| Mogerhanger .. | 5 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 6 |
| Meppershall .. | 35 | — | — | — | — | — | 35 |
| Potton .. | 115 | 3 | — | 2 | — | 1 | 121 |
| Sutton .. | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Stotfold .. | 119 | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | 124 |
| Shefford .. | 6 | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 9 |
| Tempsford .. | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 4 |
| Totals | 401 | 6 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 2 | 431 |

7.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified and the number of deaths for the years 1950-1962.

| NEW CASES | | | | | | DEATHS | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-------|-----------|----|---------------|----|-------|--|
| Year | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | | M. | F. | M. | F. | | |
| 1950 | 13 | 6 | 4 | — | 23 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 4 | |
| 1951 | 13 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 26 | — | 3 | — | — | 3 | |
| 1952 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 13 | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | |
| 1953 | 14 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 29 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| 1954 | 18 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 34 | 2 | 3 | 1 | — | 6 | |
| 1955 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 5 | 30 | 5 | 1 | — | — | 6 | |
| 1956 | 1 | 6 | — | — | 7 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 | |
| 1957 | 2 | 2 | — | 1 | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | |
| 1958 | 7 | 2 | — | 1 | 10 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 3 | |
| 1959 | 8 | 6 | 3 | — | 17 | — | — | — | — | — | |
| 1960 | 4 | 5 | 3 | — | 12 | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | |
| 1961 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 1 | — | — | 4 | |
| 1962 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 3 | — | 1 | — | 4 | |

The Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit now visits Biggleswade regularly to provide a service for local medical practitioners. It is stationed at "The Lawns" every Tuesday morning, between 11.15 a.m. and 11.45 a.m.

8. SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply

Water supplied to the area has proved very satisfactory in quality and quantity. Samples have been taken during the year and the results have shown that the supply is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. It is **not** plumbo-solvent.

The following report by the County Public Health Laboratory of a sample sent for examination is typical:

Chemical Examination in parts per million

Appearance—Clear and bright

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|
| Colour | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Turbidity | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Less than 3 |
| Odour | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Nil |
| Reaction pH neutral | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7.3 |
| Free Carbon Dioxide | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Electric Conductivity at 20°C. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 430 |
| Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 280 |
| Chlorine present as Chlorides | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 200 |
| Hardness: Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 210 |
| Carbonate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 200 |
| Non Carbonate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 10 |
| Nitrate Nitrogen | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.0 |
| Nitrite Nitrogen | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Absent |
| Ammoniacal Nitrogen* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.010 |
| Oxygen absorbed | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.000 |
| Alubuminoid Nitrogen* | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.000 |
| Residual Chlorine | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Absent |
| Metals—Iron | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Absent |
| Other metals | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Absent |
| Fluoride | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | Less than 1 |
| Silica | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |

*To convert to ammonia multiply by 1.21

(b) Distribution of Water

The following figures are for last year as up-to-date figures are not yet available.

| PARISH | Estimated Population supplied from mains | Number of houses at 31st December, 1962 | | |
|-----------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | With direct mains supply | Mains supply to standpipe | Dependent on other source |
| Arlesey | 3060 | 1070 | — | — |
| Astwick | 38 | 12 | — | — |
| Blunham | 615 | 202 | — | — |
| Campton | 335 | 119 | — | 3 |
| Chicksands .. | 900* | 124 | — | — |
| Clifton | 1330 | 479 | — | — |
| Cockayne Hatley | 106 | 36 | — | — |
| Dunton | 440 | 156 | — | 2 |
| Edworth | 50 | 25 | — | — |
| Everton | 220 | 96 | — | — |
| Eyeworth | 90 | 28 | — | 1 |
| Henlow | 3950* | 872 | — | — |
| Langford | 1250 | 527 | — | — |
| Meppershall .. | 710 | 238 | — | — |
| Mogerhanger .. | 585 | 183 | — | — |
| Northill | 1450 | 512 | — | 3 |
| Old Warden .. | 430 | 105 | — | 7 |
| Potton | 2060 | 782 | — | 3 |
| Shefford | 2010 | 749 | — | 1 |
| Southill | 1075 | 343 | — | 2 |
| Stotfold | 5220 | 1319 | — | 2 |
| Sutton | 280 | 90 | — | — |
| Tempsford | 480 | 152 | — | — |
| Upper Stondon | 70 | 27 | — | — |
| Wrestlingworth | 385 | 138 | — | — |

*These figures include Service Personnel

(c) Rainfall

Rainfall is normally recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works at Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold.

The rainfall recorded has been as follows:

| ARLESEY | | | | POTTON | | STOTFOLD | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------|--|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| | Rainfall in Inches | Days | | Rainfall in Inches | Days | Rainfall in Inches | Days |
| January .. | 2.37 | 17 | | 2.62 | 24 | 2.39 | 17 |
| February .. | 0.40 | 8 | | 0.41 | 14 | 0.43 | 8 |
| March .. | 1.10 | 10 | | 1.17 | 12 | 1.06 | 11 |
| April .. | 1.48 | 15 | | 1.42 | 15 | 1.63 | 15 |
| May .. | 1.91 | 17 | | 2.48 | 22 | 1.98 | 16 |
| June .. | 0.09 | 2 | | 0.05 | 2 | 0.11 | 3 |
| July .. | 2.74 | 11 | | 1.99 | 13 | 2.78 | 8 |
| August .. | 1.66 | 12 | | 1.79 | 13 | 1.70 | 11 |

Rainfall—continued

| | ARLESEY | | POTTON | | STOTFOLD | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| | <i>Rainfall in Inches</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Rainfall in inches</i> | <i>Days</i> | <i>Rainfall in inches</i> | <i>Days</i> |
| September.. | 3.00 | 14 | 2.96 | 16 | 2.77 | 14 |
| October .. | 0.96 | 8 | 1.21 | 14 | 1.05 | 10 |
| November.. | 1.55 | 13 | 1.67 | 16 | 1.63 | 12 |
| December .. | 1.37 | 10 | 1.49 | 15 | 1.90 | 10 |
| Total | 18.63 | 137 | 19.26 | 176 | 19.43 | 135 |

(d) Drainage and Sewerage

Although the sewage scheme for the parishes of Clifton, Henlow, Langford and Shefford has been completed for some time, the rate of connection of private properties thereto, is comparatively slow.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:

| | <i>Clifton</i> | | <i>Henlow</i> | | <i>Langford</i> | | <i>Shefford</i> | |
|---|----------------|-----|---------------|-----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | P. | C. | P. | C. | P. | C. | P. | C. |
| Sewerable properties | 275 | 128 | 260 | 117 | 320 | 175 | 513 | 252 |
| Properties connected to sewers .. | 246 | 128 | 166 | 117 | 154 | 113 | 271 | 252 |
| Properties not yet connected to sewers | 29 | — | 94 | — | 166 | 62 | 242 | — |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|----|-----|
| Percentage of all sewerable properties connected to sewers | 89.45 | 100 | 63.84 | 100 | 48.12 | 64.60 | 82 | 100 |
|---|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-------|----|-----|

P.—Private properties: C.—Council houses.

The sixty-two Council houses in Langford not yet connected to the sewers are in the course of being modernized, and provision for the connection to sewers has been made in these contracts.

Laying of sewers and the construction of a sewage pumping station at Campton, is well in hand. Sewage from this village will discharge into the sewer in Ampthill Road, Shefford and will be treated at the main disposal works at Clifton.

The sewerage of Everton was completed in October, 1962. Certain lengths of sewer originally laid by the Air Ministry during the war were incorporated in the scheme, and in addition some 1,220 yards of 7 inch diameter sewers were laid and a disposal works constructed. To date twenty-four properties are connected to the sewers.

The Disposal Works at Arlesey and Stotfold are obviously overloaded, and the report of the Consulting Engineers on both works is awaited.

By the end of the year a tender for the proposed sewerage scheme for Wrestlingworth, had been accepted and approved by the Ministry. Instructions have been issued to the contractor to commence work on the scheme in January.

The position with regard to sewerage in other parishes is as follows:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Blunham: | Ministry Investigation held—decision awaited. |
| Dunton: | Report in course of preparation by Consultants. |
| Meppershall: | Scheme approved in principle—detailed drawings being prepared. |
| Mogerhanger: | Ministry Investigation held—decision awaited. |
| Northill: | Ministry Investigation held—decision awaited. |
| Tempsford: | Ministry Investigation held—decision awaited. |

It is interesting to note that at the present time 83% of the population are resident in parishes where main drainage is available, and that 72% are resident in the drainage area. When all the schemes referred to in the foregoing paragraphs are operative, the figures will be 93% and 88% respectively.

(e) Nightsoil Removal and Cesspool Emptying

With the exception of parishes where main drainage facilities are available, all cesspools are emptied on the basis of one free emptying per house per year upon request. A similar service is afforded in the case of cesspools at premises situated outside the drainage areas.

This service is also provided upon request, where premises are situated within the drainage areas, but for this and other cases where a more frequent service is required, a charge is made.

Nightsoil is disposed of by means of composting on agricultural land, and the contents of cesspools are irrigated on waste land adjoining the sewage farm at Potton.

(f) Watercourses

A total length of 472 chains of polluted ditches were cleansed at a cost of £805 15s. 0d. This work is undertaken by contract and provision is made for the trimming of weeds and removal of obstructions during the spring, and for thorough cleansing in the autumn.

(g) Refuse Collection

Refuse is removed throughout the district at fortnightly intervals. In July 1962, the Surveyor submitted a detailed report on this service in which he expressed the view that refuse should be removed at weekly intervals.

Unfortunately, because of the considerable increase in cost, the Council were unable to adopt this recommendation.

Disposal continues to be by means of controlled tipping at a disused gravel pit owned by the Council. One attendant, with a bulldozer, is employed whole time at the tip.

The monthly treatment for rat infestation at the tip is undertaken by the Rodent Operator, who during the summer months also carries out regular spraying with a power operated spray, against infestation by flies, crickets, etc.

(h) Sanitary Inspection of the Area

| | |
|---|-------|
| Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts .. | 791 |
| Houses re-inspected under the Public Health Acts .. | 189 |
| Houses inspected under the Housing Acts | 305 |
| Houses re-inspected under the Housing Acts | 82 |
| Visits re number of occupants | 17 |
| Moveable dwellings visited | 195 |
| Investigations re sewers and drains | 416 |
| Inspections of watercourses | 101 |
| Inspections of places of entertainment | 9 |
| Visits to new buildings and drainage works in progress .. | 1,897 |

(i) Eradication of Bed Bugs

No cases of infestation were reported during the year.

(j) Petroleum Acts

121 visits were made to premises at which petroleum, cellulose and carbide of calcium are stored. 101 licences were granted in respect of which fees amounting to £68 15s. 0d. were received.

(k) Rodent Control

One Rodent Operator is employed whole-time and he is responsible for surveying the area and the treatment of premises in which infestations are found to exist. Domestic premises are treated free of charge.

In addition he carries out inspections and treatments at the refuse tip and sewage disposal works. Routine test baiting of sewers is also undertaken, and where infestations are found, the necessary treatment is carried out.

The following table indicates the amount of work undertaken during the year under review:

| | <i>Local Authority</i> | <i>Dwellings</i> | <i>All others including business premises</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|----------------------------|------------------|---|--------------|
| No. of properties inspected .. | 26 | 255 | 40 | 321 |
| No. of properties found to be infested | 16 | 214 | 20 | 250 |
| No. of infested properties treated | 16 | 214 | 20 | 250 |
| Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) | 67 | 286 | 22 | 375 |

9. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat Inspection

Two licensed slaughterhouses continue to operate in the area. One is used solely for the occupier's own retail business, and the other is owned by The Fatstock Marketing Corporation where large numbers of animals are slaughtered for the wholesale trade. In order to maintain the complete inspection of all meat, one qualified inspector is engaged wholtime. In addition, a considerable amount of your officers' leisure time, including weekends and public holidays, is occupied in this work, in fact, a total of 469 hours overtime was involved during the past year.

It is anticipated that forthcoming legislation will place a statutory obligation on Local Authorities to secure 100% inspection of meat. The marking of meat passed as fit for human consumption will be obligatory and a system of charging for meat inspection will be introduced. This will automatically involve more of your inspector's time and unless there is some restriction on the hours of slaughtering considerably more overtime will have to be worked.

The following summary shows the number of animals slaughtered during the year, and the carcasses and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part:

| | Cattle | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|--------|-------|--------|-----------------------|--------|
| Number killed | 3,769 | 357 | 23 | 8,443 | 10,237 |
| Number inspected | 3,769 | 357 | 23 | 8,443 | 10,237 |
| ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCUS : | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 2 | 5 | 4 | 94 | 64 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 2,143 | 146 | 1 | 680 | 2,975 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis or cysticerci | 56.91 | 42.29 | 21.74 | 9.16 | 29.68 |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY : | | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 32 | 1 | — | — | 215 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 0.84 | 0.28 | — | — | 0.28 |
| CYSTICERCOSIS : | | | | | |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 27 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration | 27 | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally con- demned | — | — | — | — | — |

The carcasses of beef affected by Cysticercus, which is the cystic stage of a tapeworm found in human beings were subjected to approved cold storage treatment, which destroys the cysts.

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption and destroyed was 27 tons 13 cwt. 0 qtrs. 23 lbs.

(b) Other Food Premises

During the year routine visits have been carried out at 238 food premises in the area. The standard of hygiene was generally satisfactory, although fourteen traders were warned of minor contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. The proprietors of the food premises in the area are generally aware of their responsibilities under the regulations, but your inspectors have issued a useful booklet for their guidance, which sets out the regulations in a form which can easily be understood by the layman.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption:

423 tins various foods

62 packets cheese

(c) Ice Cream

There are eighty-four retailers of Ice Cream in the area, but only one who manufactures the commodity. Otherwise all ice cream is pre-packed and manufactured by firms of national repute.

All premises have been satisfactorily maintained and managed during the year.

(d) Milk Supply

The whole of the district is a Specified Area, and only designated milk (Pasteurised, sterilized or tuberculin tested) can be sold.

Routine control sampling and licensing of dealers is carried out by the County Council as the Food and Drugs Authority. The dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

10.

HOUSING

(a) New Buildings

556 plans were submitted for approval during the year, of these 481 were approved, 42 were refused, 18 were withdrawn and 15 were outstanding at the end of the year.

223 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

(b) Housing Conditions

During the year, demolition orders were made in respect of six dwellings. During the same period, fifty dwellings were demolished and 131 were improved and repaired as the result of informal action.

The Council's building programme continues at a steady pace, sixty dwellings having been completed during the past twelve months. Ten of these were bungalows for aged persons and six houses were allocated to tenants occupying houses in respect of which demolition orders have been made.

(c) Improvement Grants

Applications for Improvement Grants were received and approved as follows:

| | | | | |
|---|----|----|---------|----|
| Applications for Standard Grants | .. | .. | .. | 17 |
| Applications for Discretionary Grants | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Value of work approved for grant purposes | .. | .. | £16,039 | |

(d) Certificates of Disrepair

No applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year. One Certificate was cancelled after the necessary repairs had been satisfactorily completed.

11. ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1933

(Part 1)

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

| Premises | Number on Register | Inspections | Number of written Notices and Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 14 | 17 | — |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 80 | 62 | — |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) | — | — | — |
| Total | 94 | 79 | — |

2. Cases in which defects were found:

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|---|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector | |
| Want of cleanliness .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Overcrowding .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unreasonable temp. .. | — | — | — | — | — |
| Inadequate ventilation | — | — | — | — | — |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | — | — | — | — | — |
| Sanitary Conveniences: | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient .. | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 4 | 4 | — | 4 | — |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | 5 | 5 | — | 5 | — |

3. Outwork (Section 110)

| Nature of Work | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 111(I)c. | No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises |
|-----------------|---|---|---|--|
| Wearing apparel | 14 | — | — | — |

4. Outwork (Section 111)

Notices Served

Nil

Prosecutions

Nil

